

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please rewrite the claims in the above-captioned application to read as follows:

4. *(Amended)* A hybrid oligonucleotide consisting of one or more deoxyribonucleotide POPS blocks and one or more regions of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleotides having internucleoside linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphodiester, phosphotriester, phosphorothioate and phosphoramidate linkages, wherein each of said POPS blocks is flanked by a region of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides.

5. The oligonucleotide according to claim 4, having from 12 to 50 nucleotides.

6. The oligonucleotide according to claim 5, having from 17 to 35 nucleotides.

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 are pending in the application. Claim 4 has been amended. Attached as Appendix A is marked up copy of amended claim 4, indicating the changes made. Claims 5 and 6 are unchanged from Applicants' amendment filed on April 12, 2000.

Support for the amendment to claim 4 may be found at page 7, lines 3-7, and at page 8, lines 12-14. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing amendment. The amendment raises no new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. The foregoing amendment places the claims in condition for allowance by addressing and overcoming the indefiniteness rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the novelty rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.